



House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 25, 2019

Mr. Richard J. Mollot
Executive Director
Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC)
One Penn Plaza, Suite 6252
New York, NY 10119

Dear Mr. Mollot,

Thank you again for attending the House Ways and Means Committee's November 14 hearing on "Caring for Aging Americans." Given your organization's commitment to improving quality of life for seniors in nursing homes and other residential facilities, it was great to hear your insights on how the committee can best address this important challenge. It was especially helpful to hear your testimony given the LTCCC's focus on issues facing New York.

I have had the opportunity to read some of the reports your organization has written on nursing home conditions in New York, and was particularly interested in your findings in "An Assessment of the Impact of Low Staffing Levels on Quality of Nursing Home Care in New York." The data in this report makes a compelling case that increasing staffing levels, particularly among registered nurses, would greatly improve living conditions in nursing homes.

With this report in mind, I would like to ask you the following questions:

- What would be an appropriate figure for minimum total staffing hours per resident per day in nursing homes?
- What would be an appropriate figure for minimum registered nurse staffing hours per resident per day in nursing homes?
- What are the appropriate guardrails the federal government can put in place in order to ensure that for-profit nursing homes do not allow their profit motives to lead inadequate staffing levels?
- What are the appropriate guardrails the federal government can put in place in order to ensure that anti-psychotic drugs are not used to compensate for inadequate staffing levels in nursing homes?

Caring for our seniors is one of the most important responsibilities we have as Americans. Congress must work to ensure that residents of nursing homes and other facilities are able to age with dignity and in as much comfort as possible. I thank you again for taking the time to testify before our committee and for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas R. Suozzi".

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress